

# Geoff's trip to the RI convention Copenhagen, Denmark

June 2006

# Dual-Purpose Trip

- Trip took place in two stages due to timing
  - Stopover in New Jersey to attend my son's graduation from Princeton University
  - Continuation to Copenhagen for the convention

Graduation takes place over a four-day period:

- Parade of classes (many alumni return for the parade and reunion)
- Commencement (non-denominational service featuring speaker David Sedaris with students in the chapel and parents seated outside watching on big screens)
- Baccalaureate (student organized presentation of awards featuring speaker Bill Clinton held in back of Nassau Hall)
- Graduation (formal cap and gown ceremony held in front of Nassau Hall)

# **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY**



**Princeton has the look of an Ivy League college. Here Vivian is standing in front of one of the dorms**



**Here I appear in  
front of another  
splendid dorm**



**Thomas received a car  
as a graduation gift**







**Another dorm. My son's room the first half of his junior year was at the top of the tower**  
**- that would be the fifth floor or a lot of stairs if you were to forget a book in your room**



**This is Thomas and Julie, his college girlfriend; both are very happy to be graduating**





**One very proud Mom.  
As a college professor herself, she places a high value on a good education**



**Each class plants an ivy plant around the base of Nassau Hall, which is one legend for the origin of the term “Ivy League”**



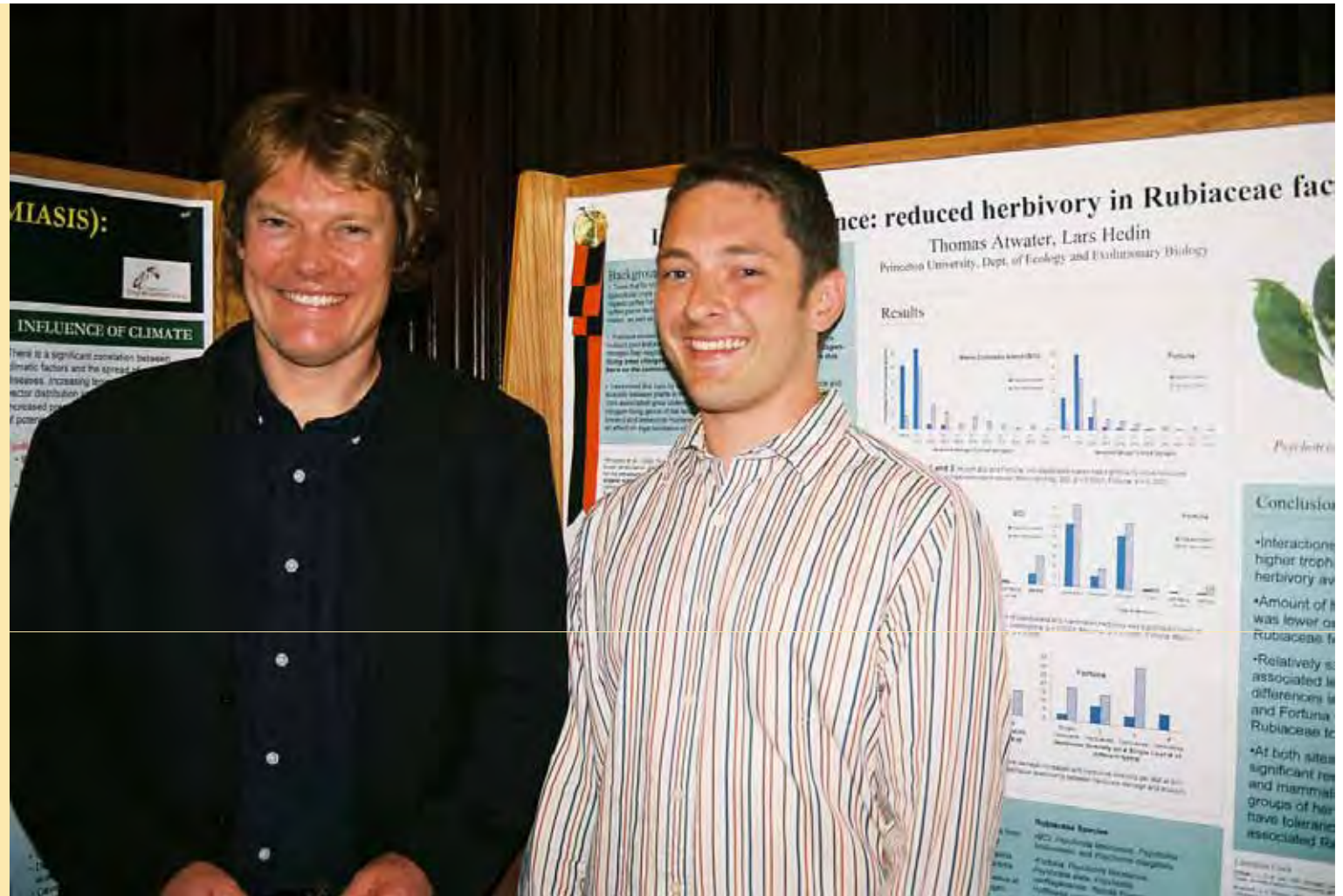


**Friends and roommates of Thomas at a barbecue for the parents organized by the guys, each one as accomplished as the next**





**At a reception sponsored by the department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Thomas received the research prize in Ecology for his senior thesis**



**Thomas posing with his mentor, Lars Hedin, in front of the summary display of his senior thesis. He came up with the idea during his semester in Panama and conducted follow-on research during the summer**

**One proud and  
happy Mom, the  
fulfillment of a  
dream for her son**





Copenhagen is the largest city in Scandinavia at 500,000

The entire country of Denmark has slightly more people than Houston

Denmark has a proud heritage and colorful history replete with Vikings, royalty, artistry, a great sense of design, and a unique national character

The RI convention was attended by 12,000, a relatively modest number compared to other sites

## **ON TO COPENHAGEN**



**The convention center is located out by the airport. The facility was designed to handle multiple, simultaneous events, so getting people to the right places required lots of guidance. Here are two local Rotarians serving as Sgt-at-Arms**



**With the convention center at the airport and the hotels downtown, a system of bus routes was used to move people back-an-forth. These two controlled the staging of buses and could model as Vikings**





**A fixture of every RI convention is the RI shop for all things Rotary. People came from around the world, although most attendees were European**



**Thousands of miles from home, one  
can still encounter familiar faces**





**The main square is dominated by City Hall on the right and the Palace Hotel among other commercial buildings**





**One of the four  
royal mansions is  
to the left of the  
stately Marble  
Church that  
surround the 18<sup>th</sup>  
Century square**

**The monarchy  
remains very  
popular in Denmark**

**The architecture of the older buildings is predominately Dutch Renaissance**

**The economy used to be dominated by trade and fishing**

**The new economy has transitioned to post-industrial and is strongly supported by North Sea oil**







**The waterfront that used to be dominated by warehouses and other commercial buildings has given way to upscale urban living**



**The prevalence of design features can be seen in this waterfront view where space has been created to maintain historical lines of sight**

**Church attendance in Denmark is similar to the rest of Europe, although the majority of residents continue to pay the optional tax to support churches**





**Tradition lives on in Denmark**





**Many people commute by bicycle, there are even special lanes and special traffic signals just for cyclists**





**We stayed at the King Frederick Hotel, a comfortable and elegant old-world space**



**The sun came out during our visit and the Danes took advantage of the break from dreary weather**





**Europeans used to look down on the US because of racial issues, they down have their own issues concerning diversity**





**On an excursion to Humlebaek, Vivian finds her dream house that overlooks the sound between Denmark and Sweden**



**Traditional ways of living can be found outside of the city, this house is covered by a thatch roof**





**The main attraction for us in Humlebaek was the Louisiana Museum, so named as the founder had married three women all named Louisa**





**The Louisiana had only one Giacometti piece (unlike our MFA), but it was beautifully displayed in its own room**





**It was an excellent convention in a fascinating country, but it was time to head on home after one more latte**